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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 5:38pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Let me first say that I watched in horror as the justice department pursued legal action against Microsoft under Anti-Trust laws. Microsoft is not a monopoly. This case had no merit in the courts. A political agenda was created to show a company what will happen if they do not contribute heavily to the candidate's political campaigns. I believe another word for this is extortion. The states saw "Tobacco Settlement" size dollars added to their state budgets. The companies that pressured the justice department to take action against Microsoft weighed in heavy on the political campaigns for "favors". These companies asked the court to do what their own ineptness could not do. They wanted my tax dollars to be used to destroy a company that has provided so much innovation to the technology world.

1. As a consumer, I have not been hurt by Microsoft.

Past experience that required me to learn software without a common base was more difficult and required extensive training. When Microsoft developed the Windows operating system it made learning new programs refreshing.

2. Literally, hundreds of new companies were created.

These new companies had a base to build their programs and market their technology. If the software was written to operate on Windows operating system it had certain common features that made it easy to learn and helped the production time on my job.

3. As to the MSN internet explorer being bundled with software on new computers, it is a matter of preference. My husband and I have had numerous Internet Service Providers. They have each displayed their own home page as the default. Personally, we enjoy the MSN format. Quickly and easily we changed the home page on our computer from the Internet Service Provider home page to MSN home page. This could readily be done in reverse if someone does not want MSN. It is not an issue of monopoly. MSN does not have to be used if the consume does not want it use. There are many options.

It is for the above reasons as well as many others, I believe the Microsoft settlement is more than fair.

When we have:

Companies crumbling around us  
Thousands of workers being added to the unemployment rolls  
daily  
Cries for the need to rebuild America  
Why would the justice department want to weaken and perhaps  
destroy a successful company that has helped 100's perhaps  
1000's of smaller companies have Microsoft to thank for  
their beginning and put 1000's of American's to work?

Please do not take this farce further. We have wasted too  
much of America's money and time attempting to tear down a  
company built with the pioneer spirit that made America the  
finest country on this planet.

Thank you for your time and attention to my opinions.